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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/658,393      | 09/08/2000  | Kathrin Berkner      | 074451.P110         | 3421             |

7590 05/02/2006

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EXAMINER

LEE, TOMMY D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/658,393

Applicant(s)

BERKNER ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas D. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9,38-47,84-86 and 119-123 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9,38-47,84-86 and 119-123 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 11, 2006 has been entered.

### ***Response to Amendment***

2. This Office action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed April 11, 2006. Claims 1-9, 38-47, 84-86 and 119-123 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. Claims 84-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,497,777 (Abdel-Malek et al.).

Regarding claims 84-86, Abdel-Malek et al. disclose a method comprising: applying a forward wavelet transform to image data (wavelet transform processor 36 (column 4, lines 21-44)); performing denoising by thresholding coefficients generated by applying the forward wavelet transform (threshold processor 38 (column 5, line 42 – column 6, line 10)); rescaling coefficients by filtering coefficients after thresholding (part of inverse wavelet process (column 6, lines 20-42)). The method further comprises

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sampling the wavelet coefficients (wavelet coefficients are inherently sampled in threshold process); and applying an inverse wavelet transform on filtered coefficients (inverse wavelet transform processor 42 (column 6, lines 10-18)).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1, 2, 38-40 and 120-122 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Publication WO 99/28865 (Decegama) in view of U.S. Patent 5,748,786 (Zandi et al.).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 38, 120 and 121, Decegama discloses a system comprising: a wavelet-based image processing path to enhance an input image in a wavelet domain, comprising a forward wavelet transform (multistage wavelet transform filter 50 (page 6, lines 7-23)), one or more wavelet-based processing blocks (enhancement system 10 (page 7, lines 18-22)), and an inverse wavelet transform (multistage inverse transform filter 22 (page 9, line 27 – page 10, line 20)); and a print engine coupled to the processing path (output device 62 may be a printer (page 5, lines 23-27)). The system further comprises an input operable to receive the input image from an external source and a scanner for generating the input image, wherein the input and the scanner are coupled to the image processing path (signal source 68 may be a scanner; input device may be a keyboard 64)).

Decegama does not disclose a unit to sharpen or smooth text and image regions of the image data corresponding to the input image, wherein the image processing path

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further includes a classifier, the classifier to control reduction of image noise, smoothing of the image, and sharpening of the image. Zandi et al. disclose this limitation (column 15, lines 6-27). In view of Zandi et al., one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the teaching of Decegama by providing a unit for sharpening or smoothing the image data, because such a unit enhances the detail of the output image.

Regarding claims 39, 40 and 122, Decegama discloses a method comprising: processing an input image by enhancing the input image, including applying a forward wavelet transform to create a plurality of coefficients and filtering coefficients with a coefficient domain operator in a wavelet domain (multistage wavelet transform filter 50 (page 6, lines 7-23)); and outputting a processed image (output device 62). The method further comprises: applying one or more wavelet-based processing blocks to coefficients resulting from applying the forward wavelet transform (enhancement system 10 (page 7, lines 18-22)); and applying an inverse wavelet transform (multistage inverse wavelet transform filter 22 (page 9, line 27 – page 10, line 20)).

Decegama does not disclose sharpening or smoothing text and image data in the wavelet domain corresponding to the input image, wherein the processing an input image further includes applying a classifier to the plurality of coefficients prior to thresholding. Zandi et al. disclose this limitation (column 15, lines 6-27). In view of Zandi et al., one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the teaching of Decegama by providing a unit for sharpening or smoothing the image data, because such a unit enhances the detail of the output image.

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7. Claims 39, 40, 122 and 123 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abdel-Malek et al. in view of Zandi et al.

Regarding claims 39, 40, 122 and 123, Abdel-Malek et al. disclose a method comprising: processing an input image by enhancing the input image, including applying a forward wavelet transform to create a plurality of coefficients and filtering coefficients with a coefficient domain operator in a wavelet domain (wavelet transform processor 36 (column 4, lines 21-44)); and outputting a processed image (display system 18 outputs processed image (column 6, lines 42-49)). The method further comprises: applying one or more wavelet-based processing blocks to coefficients resulting from applying the forward wavelet transform (threshold processor 38 processing wavelet transform signal (Fig. 2) to remove noise (column 5, line 42 – column 6, line 10); and applying an inverse wavelet transform (inverse wavelet processor 42 (column 6, lines 10-18)).

Abdel-Malek et al. do not disclose sharpening or smoothing text and image data in the wavelet domain corresponding to the input image, wherein the processing an input image further includes applying a classifier to the plurality of coefficients prior to thresholding or denoising. As mentioned above, Zandi et al. disclose this limitation (column 15, lines 6-27). In view of Zandi et al., one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the teaching of Abdel-Malik et al. by providing a unit for sharpening or smoothing the image data, because such a unit enhances the detail of the output image.

8. Claim 119 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,905,579 (Katayama et al.) in view of Zandi et al.

Katayama et al. disclose a copier having a wavelet-based image processing path for enhancing image data (wavelet transforming circuit 2, edge detecting circuit 3, character detecting circuit 4 (column 3, lines 29-47); for use in a copier (column 1, lines 11-18)).

Katayama et al. do not disclose one or more units to sharpen or smooth text and image regions of the image data corresponding to the image data. As mentioned above, Zandi et al. disclose this limitation (column 15, lines 6-27). In view of Zandi et al., one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the teaching of Katayama et al. by providing a unit for sharpening or smoothing the image data, because such a unit enhances the detail of the output image.

9. Claims 3 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view of Zandi et al. and U.S. Patent 5,412,741 (Shapiro).

Neither Decegama nor Zandi et al. explicitly disclose a critically sampled wavelet transform. This type of wavelet transform is well known in the art, as noted by Shapiro (column 1, lines 34-38). Applicant has not disclosed that the use of a critically sampled wavelet transform provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected applicant's invention to perform equally well using any one of a number of well-known wavelet transform processes depending on the image data to be reduced, including the critically sampled wavelet transform, because all wavelet transforms effectively reduce the amount of image data for storage or transmission. Therefore, it would have been

obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a critically sampled wavelet transform to the combined teaching of Decegama and Zandi et al.

10. Claims 4, 5, 42 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view of Zandi et al. and U.S. Patent 6,236,745 (Chen et al.).

Neither Decegama nor Zandi et al. explicitly disclose an overcomplete or Haar wavelet transform. This type of wavelet transform is well known in the art, as noted by Chen et al. (column 3, lines 48-58). Applicant has not disclosed that the use of an overcomplete or Haar wavelet transform provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected applicant's invention to perform equally well using any one of a number of well-known wavelet transform processes depending on the image to be reduced, including the overcomplete or Haar transform, because all wavelet transforms effectively reduce the amount of image data for storage or transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply an overcomplete or Haar wavelet transform to the combined teaching of Decegama and Zandi et al.

11. Claims 6, 7, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view of Zandi et al. and U.S. Patent 6,148,111 (Creusere).

Neither Decegama nor Zandi et al. explicitly disclose a 5,3 or 2,6 wavelet transform. This type of wavelet transform is well known in the art, as noted by Creusere (column 5, line 64 - column 6, line 1). Applicant has not disclosed that the use of a 5,3



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or 2,6 wavelet transform provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected applicant's invention to perform equally well using any one of a number of well-known wavelet transform processes depending on the image data to be reduced, including the 5,3 or 2,6 wavelet transform, because all wavelet transforms effectively reduce the amount of image data for storage or transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a 5,3 or 2,6 wavelet transform to the combined teaching of Decegama and Zandi et al.

12. Claims 8 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view of Zandi et al. and U.S. Patent 6,847,737 (Kouri et al.).

Neither Decegama nor Zandi et al. explicitly disclose a complex wavelet transform. This type of wavelet transform is well known in the art, as noted by Kouri et al. (column 32, lines 65- 67). Applicant has not disclosed that the use of a complex wavelet transform provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected applicant's invention to perform equally well using any one of a number of well-known wavelet transform processes depending on the image data to be reduced, including the complex wavelet transform, because all wavelet transforms effectively reduce the amount of image data for storage or transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a complex wavelet transform to the combined teaching of Decegama and Zandi et al.

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13. Claims 9 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Decegama in view of Zandi et al. and U.S. Patent 6,141,452 (Muran).

Neither Decegama nor Zandi et al. explicitly disclose a limited redundancy wavelet transform. This type of wavelet transform is well known in the art, as noted by Muran (column 3, lines 49-56). Applicant has not disclosed that the use of a limited redundancy wavelet transform provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected applicant's invention to perform equally well using any one of a number of well-known wavelet transform processes depending on the image data to be reduced, including the limited redundancy wavelet transform, because all wavelet transforms effectively reduce the amount of image data for storage or transmission. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a limited redundancy wavelet transform to the combined teaching of Decegama and Zandi et al.

### ***Response to Arguments***

14. Applicant's arguments filed in response to the prior rejection of the above claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) as set forth in the Prior Office action have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the prior rejection of claims 84-86 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abdel-Malek, applicant asserts that Abdel-Malek fails to describe or suggest "rescaling coefficients by filtering coefficients after thresholding." Applicant states that Abdel-Malek merely reconstructs an ultra-sound image through the use of the simple inverse of the discrete wavelet transform to decompose an image, but fails to

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describe or suggest further processing image coefficient data after the threshold processor and before the inverse wavelet transformation, or the use of a filter in the rescaling of wavelet coefficients (see current amendment, pages 7-8). However, as set forth in the Office action mailed December 9, 2005 (see *Response to Arguments*, on page 2), rescaling, as disclosed in applicant's specification, at page 23, lines 12-13, corresponds to multiplication of coefficients by a multiplication factor. In Abdel-Malek, each coefficient is multiplied by a multiplication factor (column 6, lines 25-35), thereby proving a rescaling of the coefficients.


In response to the prior rejection of claims 1, 2, 38-40, 120 and 121 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious under Decegama in view of Zandi, applicant asserts that Decegama describes processing wavelet coefficients classified as local maxima and minima to enhance edge regions, and that Zandi only describes providing wavelet coefficients to an enhancement system without further describing the system or performing processing in the wavelet domain. Thus, applicant asserts that neither Decegama nor Zandi, alone or in combination, describe or suggest "a wavelet-based image processing path to enhance an input image in a wavelet domain, wherein the processing path includes a unit to sharpen or smooth text and image regions of the image data corresponding to the input image." (see current amendment, at pages 8-10). Contrary to applicant's assertion, Zandi discloses sharpening or smoothing of text and image regions of image data. At column 15, lines 23-25, Zandi states that "[s]harpening, edge enhancements, noise control, etc. may be performed using a hierarchical decomposition."

In response to the prior rejection of the remaining claims, applicant asserts the none of the cited prior art disclose the above sharpening or smoothing of text and image regions of the image data (see current amendment, at pages 10-14). As noted above, this limitation is disclosed in Zandi.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas D. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-5:00, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
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